

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Editorially amend the specification.
2. Thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1 – 10 and the indications of allowable subject matter in claims 12 – 14 and 18 – 19.
3. Rewrite allowable claim 12 as an independent claim.
4. Amend claims 15 – 17 and 20 to depend upon independent claim 12.
5. Rewrite allowable claim 13 as an independent claim.
6. Add new claims 22 - 26 to depend upon independent claim 13, claims 22 - 26 corresponding to original claims 15 – 17 and 20 – 21, respectively.
7. Rewrite allowable claim 18 as an independent claim.
8. Add new claims 27 - 31 to depend upon independent claim 18, claims 27 - 31 also corresponding to original claims 15 – 17 and 20 – 21, respectively.
9. Cancel claim 11 without prejudice or disclaimer.
10. Call the Examiner's attention by way of a simultaneously filed IDS of references cited in co-pending US SN 09/931,280.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

With the allowance of claims 1 – 10, the cancellation of claim 11, the rewriting of allowable claims 12, 13, and 18 as independent claims, and all remaining and new claims being dependent upon one of claims 12, 13, and 18, all claims are deemed allowable. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

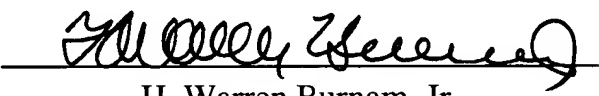
C. MISCELLANEOUS

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 
H. Warren Burnam, Jr.
Reg. No. 29,366

HWB:lsh
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100